

HONORING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENACTMENT OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2014

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment today to recognize the 35th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act, TRA, enacted April 10, 1979. While our friendship with Taiwan spans longer than 35 years, the TRA has been vital in strengthening this mutually-beneficial partnership.

Since the enactment of the TRA, Taiwan has emerged as a model democracy and an economic powerhouse in the Asia-Pacific region and the world. The People of Taiwan enjoy self-governance with a democratic system and direct elections. They also enjoy a booming economy with an innovative tech community.

The success of the TRA cannot be understated. Because of the TRA, the U.S. has been able to enjoy mutually beneficial trade with Taiwan, greater national and international security, and a rich cultural relationship. Our trade relationship with Taiwan is stronger than ever. Time and time again, Taiwan has proven its willingness to engage in substantive trade negotiations. We have enjoyed a positive relationship with them, and it is my hope that Taiwan will soon be admitted to the Trans-Pacific Partnership, TPP.

Over the last 35 years, we have watched Taiwan's contributions to international development and security. Continually, they have come to our aid to assist our antiterrorism efforts. These contributions, and more, have made it clear that, as we strengthen our relationship with Taiwan, we succeed in advancing U.S. interests.

RECOGNIZING THE PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR AWARD NOMINEES FOR PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2014

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Principal of the Year Award nominees for Prince William County Public Schools.

The Principal of the Year for Prince William County will receive the Distinguished Educational Leadership Award from The Washington Post. Among other skills, nominees must demonstrate the ability to manage effectively, demonstrate and encourage creativity and innovation, and foster a cooperative relationship with students, parents, faculty, staff, and the community.

I would like to extend my personal congratulations to the 2013–2014 nominees for Prince William County Schools, Principal of the year award.

Skyles Calhoun—Woodbridge Middle School, Robert Eichorn—New Directions,

Anita Flemons—Old Bridge Elementary School, David Huckestein—Woodbridge High School, Kathy Notyce—Mullen Elementary School, Amy Schott—Rockledge Elementary School.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending Principal of the Year Award nominees for Prince William County Public Schools and in thanking them for their dedication to leadership in our school system. Their continued service will ensure that Prince William County students are provided with a world class education in a more vibrant learning community.

HONORING SIMON URBANIC

HON. RANDY K. WEBER, SR.

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2014

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the birthday of my friend and treasured member of the gulf coast community, Mr. Simon Urbanic, who will turn seventy years old on March 15, 2014. Simon is a resident of League City, Texas along with his lovely wife, Pamela.

Born on Galveston Island in 1944, Simon has committed himself to being a successful business owner, principled conservative and devoted follower of Christ. He also served our country honorably in the United States Navy as an Opticalman 3rd Class. Simon continues to be a devoted servant in Galveston County, serving on several boards in the area.

As an area realtor, Simon has worked tirelessly to help many—including my family—find a house to call home. Not only has he served others through his work and church, he has also worked tirelessly to promote the Republican Party and conservative ideals. Simon is a dedicated and passionate volunteer for the Republican Party, the Galveston County Republican Network and other conservative political causes. A passionate learner of conservative thought, Simon is dedicated to organizing conservative ideology in Texas.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Simon Urbanic on this milestone. I thank him for his many contributions to Galveston Island, Texas District 14, and the United States. I am proud to join his friends and family in celebrating his 70th year. Simon is a friend of mine and a friend of Galveston County and I wish him continued health and happiness.

IN SUPPORT OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2014

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Women's History Month and H.R. 863, the National Women's History Commission Act. I would like to recognize a few of the many important women from Texas.

While there have been many women leaders in Dallas, one that stands out in my mind

is former mayor Annette Strauss, the second female mayor and also the second Jewish mayor. Before her election to the Dallas City Council, Strauss worked tirelessly as a fundraiser for many organizations, poignantly for the arts in Dallas. During her tenure as Mayor-Pro Tem and as mayor, Strauss successfully provided a refuge for the many Texas families that fell into homelessness during the economic crisis. Today, the Annette G. Strauss Family Gateway remains a facility that provides empowerment for homeless people and families to break the cycle of homelessness and poverty. Strauss served as Ambassador-at-large for the city of Dallas until her death from cancer in 1998.

In the world of education, Yvonne Ewell is a Texas legend. Ewell began her teaching career at Phyllis Wheatley Elementary School in Dallas. Ewell was the first African American woman appointed as the district-wide elementary school consultant and subsequently was named associate superintendent of the Dallas Independent School District (DISD). During her time as the court-appointed school desegregation monitor for DISD, Ewell began planning for a magnet school with her fellow committee members. From her vision, the Yvonne A. Ewell Townview Magnet Center was born and is extremely successful in educating students in its six semi-independent subject-based high schools. Ewell maintained a strong, controversial stance on education in Dallas schools until her death in 1998 of pancreatic cancer.

When recognizing Dallas leaders, it is impossible to not highlight Margaret McDermott. At the age of 102, McDermott will lend her name to the second signature bridge which connects downtown Dallas to west Dallas over the Trinity River. McDermott and her late husband Eugene McDermott have been philanthropists and friends to civic, cultural, and educational organizations nationwide. Some recipients of the McDermotts' generosity include the University of Texas at Dallas, the Dallas Museum of Art, the Hockaday School, the AT&T Performing Arts Center, the Meyerson Symphony Center, and even the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. While McDermott takes little credit for her philanthropic activities, she continues to do more civic good in her hometown of Dallas.

While there are many women that we should recognize for their historic leadership in Dallas, we must recognize the young leaders in our community as well. Ariel Atkins, a senior basketball player at Duncanville High School, currently has her eye on a third state championship. The fourth-ranked prospect in the ESPNW HoopGurlz Top 100 for the class of 2014, Atkins has already made the decision to play basketball at the University of Texas next year. Despite her hard work and talent on the court, Atkins is committed to helping others, which she says she feels is her sole purpose in life. Young women like Atkins need encouragement from parents, coaches, and teachers so that they can reach their goals and beyond.

The women I have recognized are true visionaries. I urge my colleagues to support Women's History Month so that we can empower women at every age to be leaders in their fields and in their communities.